

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Festival Opera Company and
Office of Lectures and Concerts

present

Riders to the Sea

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Play by J. S. Synge


Gunars

THE MEDIUM

Words and Music by Gian-Carlo Menotti

Friday, May 22, Saturday, May 23, 1964

Meany Hall, 8 p.m.



R#1-3924 RIDERS TO THE SEA*
R#2-3925 Music by RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Play by J. S. SYNGE

CAST

Maurya (an old woman) Lynn Dupin
Bartley (her son) Douglas Miller
Cathleen (her daughter) Ann Erickson
Nora (her younger daughter) Jan Curtis
A Woman Judith Peterson
Mourners Catherine Carlson,
Kippy Lou Brinkman, Jody Johnston, LeaAnna Longley,
Muriel Collins, Judith Peterson, Kathy Thornton,
Teresa Allen.

SCENE: A cottage kitchen on an island off the West Coast
of Ireland.
TIME: Late afternoon.

THE STORY . . .

MAURYA, an old woman, mourns the loss of her son Michael who has been recently lost at sea. The body has not yet been found, but as the opera opens, Nora, the youngest daughter, enters the cottage with a bundle containing the clothing of a drowned man who may have been Michael. Before they can open the bundle, Maurya enters. Not wishing to distress her further, they hide the bundle, intending to examine it later.

Bartley, Maurya's only remaining son, enters and tells Maurya that he must go to the fair at Connemara to sell a horse. Maurya, sensing further disaster, tries to dissuade him. Bartley takes no heed of her warnings, and as he turns to go, Maurya refuses to give him her blessing. After he has gone Maurya repents her actions and the girls prevail upon her to go after him and give him her blessing. When she is gone, the girls open the bundle and discover Michael's clothes.

Maurya returns lamenting, and tells of having seen Bartley riding on his horse, followed by Michael on the other horse. When Cathleen gives her Michael's clothes, Maurya is sure that Bartley has gone to his death.

Mourning women enter and tell of Bartley's drowning in the sea. Bartley's body is brought in and the opera closes with Maurya's prayer over the body.

INTERMISSION

* Staged by Karl Fuss

THE MEDIUM

Words and music by GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI

R#1-3926

R#2-3927

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Monica (daughter of Madame Flora) . . . Joyce Berger
Toby (a Mute) . . . Niles Brewster
Madame Flora (Baba) . . . Dorothy Cole
Mrs. Gobineau . . . Mary Lee Martin
Mr. Gobineau . . . Alan Scott
Mrs. Nolan . . . Lois White

The action takes place in Madame Flora's parlor, a squalid room somewhere in a great city.

ACT I Madame Flora's parlor. Morning.

ACT II Madame Flora's parlor. Evening, a few days later.

Despite its eerie setting and gruesome conclusion, *The Medium* is actually a play of ideas. It describes the tragedy of a woman caught between two worlds, a world of reality which she cannot wholly comprehend, and a supernatural world in which she cannot believe. Baba, the Medium, has no scruples in cheating her clients, tricking them with fraudulent apparitions and contrived phenomena, until something happens which she herself has not prepared. This insignificant incident, which she is not able to explain, shatters her self-assurance, and drives her almost insane with fear. From this moment on, she rages impotently against her still incredulous clients, who are serene in their naive and unshakable faith, and against Toby, the enigmatic mute boy whom she has adopted, who seems to hide within his silence the answer to her unanswerable question. Baba's daughter, Monica, in the simplicity of her love both for Toby and Baba, tries to mediate between them. But Baba, in her anxiety and insecurity, is finally driven to kill Toby, "the ghost," the symbol of her metaphysical anguish, who will always haunt her with the riddle of his immutable silence.

GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI

SCHOOL OF MUSIC FESTIVAL OPERA STAFF

Director and Conductor Stanley Chapple
Stage Director Ralph Rosinbum
Assistant Stage Director Karl Fuss
Repetiteurs William Clarke
Karl Fuss, Loyd Simpson

FESTIVAL OPERA PRODUCTION STAFF

Art Director and Technical Supervisor . . John Ashby Conway
Technical Director Warren C. Lounsbury
Costumer Sandee Strand
Properties Jane Newbury, Laura Ingram
Electrician Bob Callaghan
Scene Construction Dave Newell
Painting Al Hedges
Stage Manager Lawrence Thompson

UNIVERSITY SINFONIETTA

Violins
*Emanuel Zetlin
Chris Gonvers

English Horn
*Robeson Allport

Violas
*Richard Ferrin
Wesley Fisk

Clarinet
*Ronald Phillips

Violoncellos
*Eva Heinitz
Julie Lehwalder

Bass Clarinet
*Ronald Phillips

Double Bass
David André

Bassoon
*Russell Bedford

Kim Mongpil
SuEllen Lacey

French Horns
Ted Plute
Roger Crook

Trumpet
Al Tubbs

Oboe
*Bernard Shapiro

Percussion
Kathy Ramm

* Faculty Member